

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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R 251930Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4115

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5166

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BL, PE, CI

SUBJECT: CHILE-PERU-BOLIVIAN RELATIONS

REF: A) LIMA 5946 B) LIMA 5742

1. SUMMARY: DCM PERUVIAN EMBASSY/SANTIAGO IGOR VELAZQUEZ JULY 24 RAISED WITH ADCM SUBJECT OF CHILEAN-PERUVIAN RELATIONS AND INTERACTION OF BOLIVIAN FACTOR. INTENTION APPEARED TO BE REASSURANCE RE PERU'S NON-AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS. END SUMNGNY.

2. VELAZQUEZ MENTIONED GOP EXPULSION OF AP CORRESPONDENT FROM LIMA (REF A NOTAL) AS REGRETTABLE BUT AN INDICATION OF GOP'S SERIOUS DESIRE TO DECREASE TENSION BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU. HE ACKNOWLEDGED IMBALANCE BETWEEN PERUVIAN AND CHILEAN ARMED FORCES BUT SPECULATED THAT AS FAR OUT POSSIBILITY GOC MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO MOVE NORTH IF IT EVER THOUGHT A FOREIGN ADVENTURE WOULD HELP DISTRACT POPULACE FROM ECONOMIC DISASTER.

3. VELAZQUEZ SAW AS MAJOR DESTABILIZING FACTOR BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT'S NEED FOR QUICK RESULTS FROM RENEWAL OF RELATIONS WITH CHILE. HE INDICATED PERUVIAN HOPE THAT
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BOLIVIAN DESIRE FOR OUTLET TO SEA BE SOMEHOW ACCOMMODATED.

IN CONVERSATION JULY 15, HE HAD NOTED ARGUMENT OFTEN USED THAT CHILE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OFFER BOLIVIA LAND WITHIN AREA FORMERLY HELD BY PERU, SINCE PERU HAD VETO POWER UNDER 1929 TREATY; HE ADDED THEN THAT NO ONE HAD EVER ASKED PERU WHETHER IT WOULD EXERCISE VETO IN SUCH A CASE. REMINDED OF THIS REMARK, HE MENTIONED GOP STUDY OF POSSIBLY GIVING UP PERUVIAN RIGHT OF VETO IN ARICA AREA IN ORDER TO SATISFY BOLIVIA (APPARENTLY THE STUDY SUBJECT OF REF B NOTAL). HE PERSONALLY DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT PERUVIAN MILITARY LEADERS WOULD APPROVE SUCH AN ACTION.

4. IN FURTHER CONSIDERATION ON WHAT SHAPE A BOLIVIAN PRESENCE IN ARICA AREA MIGHT TAKE, VELAZQUEZ REACTED NEGATIVELY TO IDEA OF TRILATERAL DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER REGION. SAID THIS APPEARED TO BE BRAZILIAN CONCEPT AND INDICATED PERU WOULD BE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH BRAZILIAN PRESENCE (VIA BOLIVIA) ON ITS PACIFIC BORDER. HE THOUGHT BOLIVIA MIGHT HOLD ENCLAVE UNDER LONG-TERM ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL RATHER THAN TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY.

5. VELAZQUEZ SAID GOP AND GOC HAVE NEVER TALKED DIRECTLY ON THIS SUBJECT, SINCE IT IS SO DELICATE FOR BOTH.

6. COMMENT: APPEARED TO EMBOFF THAT VELAZQUEZ SOUGHT OPPORTUNITY TO REASSURE US RE PERUVIAN INTENTIONS; ALSO TO STRESS URGENCY OF ARRIVING AT CHILEAN-BOLIVIAN ARRANGEMENT, AND PERUVIAN INCLINATION TO COOPERATE.
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